

Looking UP

A MANITOWOC CRANES MAGAZINE



Grove gets it done

PRODUCT FOCUS
Grove GMK5250L

JOB SITE REPORT
Potain in Israel

CRANE CARE
Training for Latin America



Dual Groves in New Zealand

Two Grove all-terrain cranes were called in to make complex, dual-crane lifts for a wood mill upgrade project. **Punitha Govindasamy** reports.

Fitting snugly into tight quarters at a job site in Kawerau, on New Zealand's north island, a 400 t (450 USt) Grove GMK6400 and a 300 t (350 USt) Grove GMK6300L overcame several obstacles, both underground and overground, to complete dual lifts at one of the world's largest wood mills.

The Tasman Mill is in operation 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, and processes over 1.1 million t (1.2 million USt) of wood every year. Pedersen's Industries took over the management and operation of the log yard and chip mill in 2004, and recently decided to upgrade its debarking system.

Pollock & Sons, one of New Zealand's leading crane specialists, was chosen to supply the lifting equipment from its fleet of 10 Grove cranes. The company chose its two largest cranes for the job, the GMK6400 and GMK6300L.

After traveling 100 km (62 mi) from Pollock & Sons' headquarters in Tauranga to the Tasman Mill job site, the two Grove cranes were setup to carry out a delicate operation that included navigating pipes, drainage systems and other obstacles.

"Both of the cranes offered quick setup times and the rigging was straightforward, which allowed us to move the cranes around the site with minimal downtime," explained Carl Hawkings, dispatch operations manager at Pollock & Sons.

"The MegaWingLift attachment on the GMK6400 allowed us to achieve greater capacity when working with longer boom lengths – and without it, the lifts on this project wouldn't have been achievable. The customer was

Grove all-terrain cranes complete a dual-lift to install a new drum system at the mill.



A Grove GMK6400 and a Grove GMK6300L work in tandem at a wood mill in New Zealand.

very pleased with the efficiency of our operations."

The project involved installing a new drum system for the debarker. The old system was removed in four loads, each weighing around 62.5 t (69 USt). The log decks were also removed, weighing between 35 t (39 USt) and 55 t (61 USt) per load. For these operations, the GMK6400 was configured with a full counterweight of 135 t (149 USt) and its MegaWingLift capacity enhancing attachment, which increased lifting capacity for the crane by up to 70% in some boom positions. Like the GMK6400, the GMK6300L was also equipped with its full counterweight, 92.5 t (102 USt).

Once the two cranes had worked separately to remove the old debarker, it was time to work together to lift into place the new 84 t (93 USt) barking drum, which measured 25 m (82 ft) long and 3.7 m (12 ft) in diameter. With limited space on site, the drum was lifted between the two cranes at a height of 13 m (43 ft) to clear the buildings, leaving minimal clearance

between the GMK6300L's boom and the nearest obstacle.

Once the drum was in place, the chutes that feed logs into the drum, each weighing between 50 t (55 USt) and 60 t (66 USt), had to be installed.

"Our biggest challenge was bringing the drum between the two cranes and rotating it without touching either boom," Hawkings explained. "With the two cranes' differing swing radii and lift capacities, a considerable amount of time and planning went into the lift. But our expert team and trustworthy equipment enabled us to complete the tandem lift successfully."

Now that the new system is up and running, the logs are fed along a conveyor belt into the rotating drum and the bark is stripped as the logs tumble against one another and the ribbed sides of the drum – tangle results as another triumphant Grove job comes to completion.

The cranes were sold to Pollock & Sons by local dealer Tidd Ross Todd Limited, who also provided customer support on the job site. ♦